

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Eria carinata* (Orchidaceae), Newly Recorded
from the Malay Peninsula**NOBUYUKI TANAKA¹ and TOMOHISA YUKAWA²¹Department of Botany, Kochi Prefectural Makino Botanical Garden, Godaisan 4200-6, Kochi 781-8125, Japan;²Tsukuba Botanical Garden, National Museum of Nature and Science, Amakubo 4-1-1, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0005, Japan

Eria carinata Gibson ex Lindl. (Orchidaceae), thus far recorded from Sikkim-Himalaya to Thailand and Vietnam, is newly recorded for peninsular Malaysia. This new find marks the southernmost limit of distribution for the species.

Keywords: *Eria carinata*, Malay Peninsula, Malaysia, new record, Orchidaceae

The genus *Eria* Lindl. (Orchidaceae) comprises about 370 species. It is widespread in tropical Asia, extending east from India to New Guinea, Australia and the Pacific Islands (O'Byrne 2001, Pearce & Cribb 2002). It superficially resembles *Dendrobium*, sharing many similarities in vegetative and reproductive structure. *Eria*, however, can be distinguished by the presence of eight pollinia while *Dendrobium* has only four (Bose & Bhattacharjee 1980, Soon 1980).

In 2007 Mr. Tatsuo Hamada of Kochi Prefecture sent a plant of the genus *Eria*, with a request for its identification, to the first author, Nobuyuki Tanaka. According to Mr. Hamada, it was collected in the Genting Highland, Malay Peninsula, in 1983. The plant was grown in his garden since then and finally flowered for the first time in 2007 (Fig. 1). After detailed investigation of the alcohol preserved flower, the plant was identified as *Eria carinata* Gibson ex Lindl. (sect. *Xiphosium*).

The Genting Highland, located ca. 50 km east of Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, has recently become one of the most popular resort areas in the Malay Peninsula because of the cool climate at high elevation.

Although in comparison with other tropical Asian regions, the orchid flora of the Malay Peninsula has been relatively well studied (Ridley 1924, Holttum 1953, Seidenfaden & Wood 1992), *Eria carinata* has not been reported from the Malay Peninsula. The species was previously known to occur from northeastern India to Thailand and Vietnam (Seidenfaden 1982, Averyanov 2006). This collection marks the southernmost limit of its distribution (Fig. 2).

When Griffith described *Xiphosium acuminatum* Griff., he noted that Gibson had called it *Eria carinata*. Gibson's name, however, was not validly published until Lindley's treatment of the genus in 1859 (Seidenfaden 1982, Pearce & Cribb

2002). The epithet *acuminatum*, from Griffith's *Xiphosium acuminatum*, could not be used because of the earlier name, *Eria acuminata* Lindley (1830).

Eria carinata Gibson ex Lindl. in J. Proc. Linn. Soc. Bot. 3: 50 (1859). (Fig. 1)

E. rosea Wall., Numer. List no. 7409 (1832), nom. nud.
Xiphosium acuminatum Griff. in Calcutta J. Nat. Hist. 5: 365 (1845).

E. fordii Rolfe in Gard. Chron. 26: 584 (1886).

Pinalia carinata (Lindl.) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 679 (1891).

Plant epiphytic. *Rhizomes* creeping, with scaly sheaths. *Pseudobulbs* cylindric-ovoid, smooth, obscurely 4-sided, to 8 cm long, 1.5–2.5 cm in diam. *Leaf* 1: blade thickly coriaceous, oblong-lanceolate, base tapering into petiole, apex acute, 15–25 cm long, 3.5–5 cm wide; petiole stout, 2–7 cm long. *Inflorescence* arising from base of pseudobulb, erect, 10–20 cm long, 3- to

6-flowered; peduncle enveloped by sheaths; floral bracts narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, 2.5–4.5 cm long, 2–3 mm wide. *Flowers* drooping, ca. 2 cm long; sepals lanceolate, carinate, keels on lateral sepals denticulate, pale yellowish green with reddish nerves; petals ovate-lanceolate, yellowish green with reddish nerves; lip 3-lobed, recurved, obovate-oblong, connate to foot of column, reddish brown, lateral lobes narrow, keels 3, central keel longer than lateral ones; column weakly curved, foot of column well-developed, white; pollinia 8, ellipsoid, attached to granular membrane.

Distribution. NE India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Thailand, Vietnam and Malay Peninsula.

Specimen examined. MALAYSIA. **Malay Peninsula**: on fallen tree trunk, roadside, Genting Highland, ca. 50 km E. of Kuala Lumpur, Pahang State, alt. ca. 2000 m, 14 June 1983, *Tatsuo Hamada s.n.* Flowering in cultivation, February 2007 (MBK, TNS).

We are indebted to Mr. Tatsuo Hamada for providing us with living materials of *Eria carinata*. Thanks are due

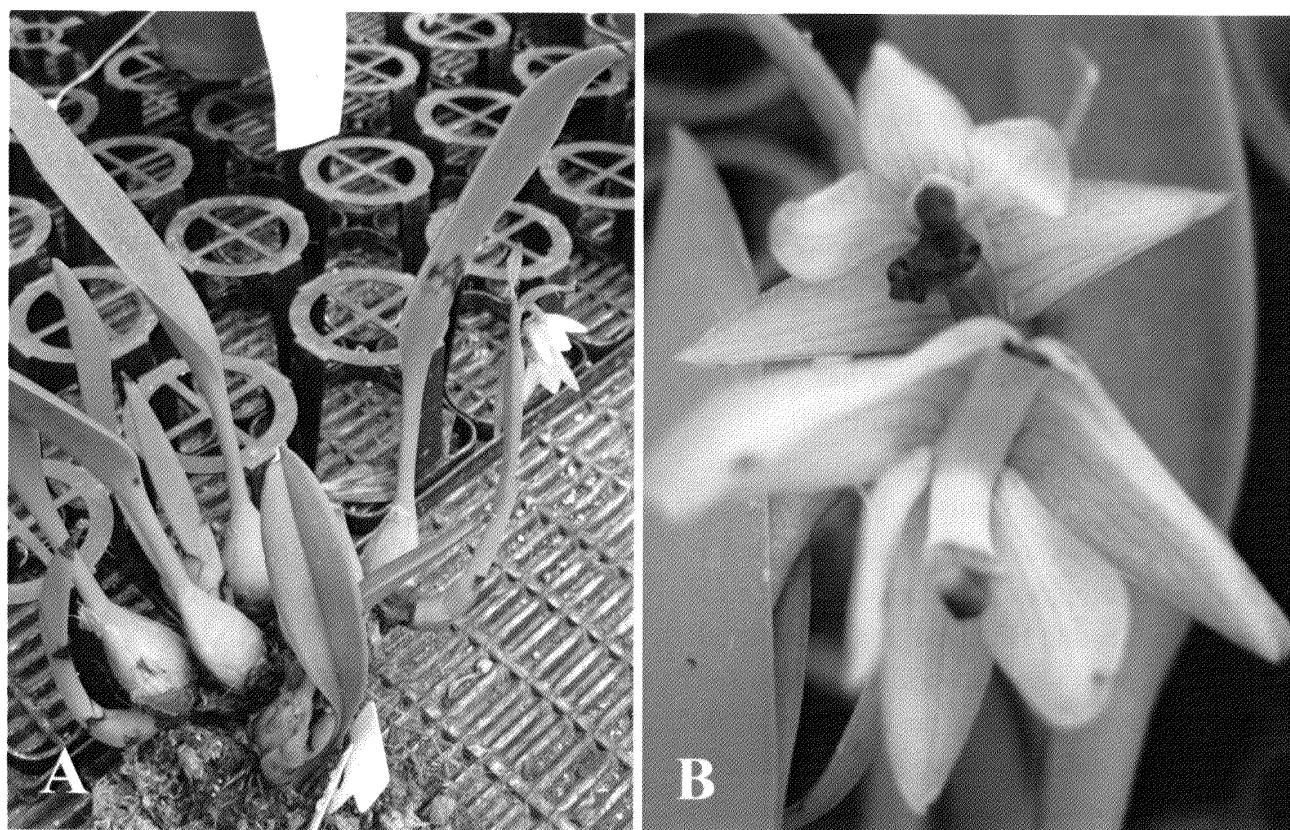


FIG. 1. *Eria carinata* Gibson ex Lindl. A. Habit. B. Flowers enlarged. The lip of the lower flower is detached.

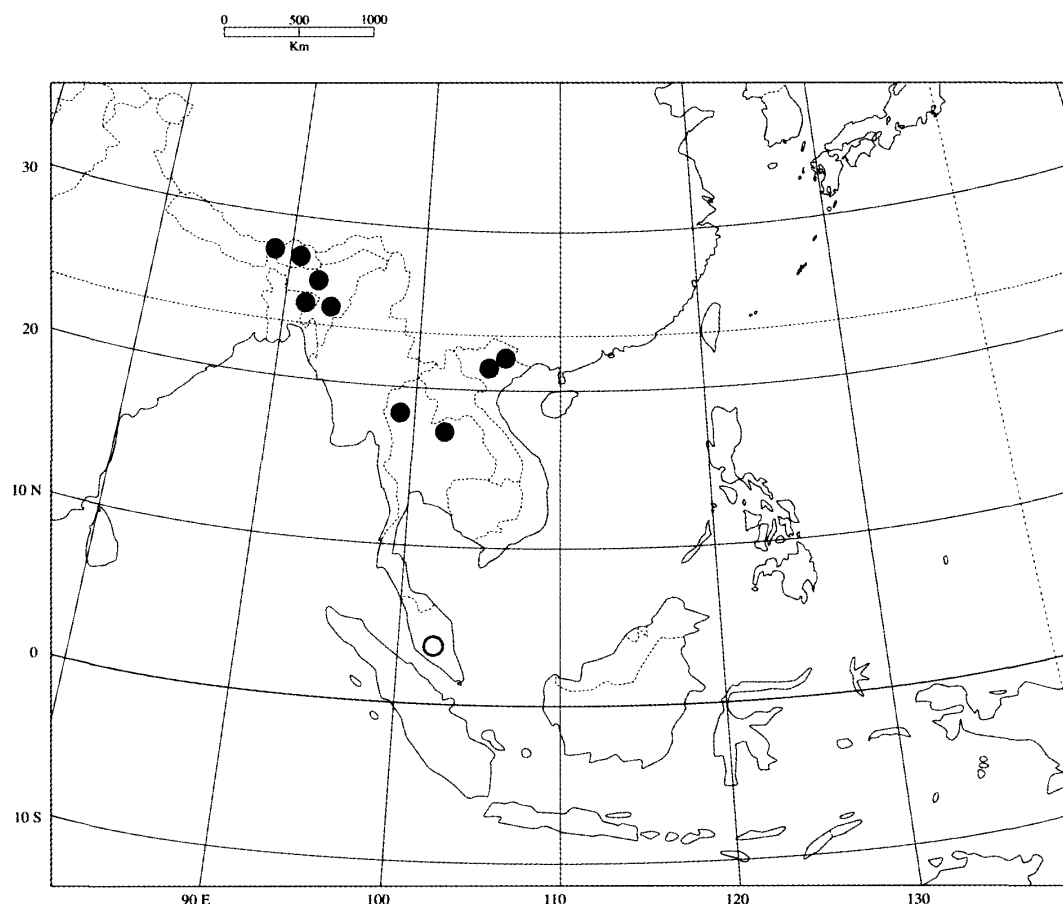


FIG. 2. Distribution of *Eria carinata* Gibson ex Lindl. Solid circles are based on the herbarium specimens cited in Seidenfaden (1982) and Averyanov (2006). A new locality in the Malay Peninsula is indicated with an open circle.

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